

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The subject matter of claim 7 has been incorporated into claim 1. Therefore, the rejection over Nicks is considered to be moot.

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kud et al., US Patent 4,846,994 in view of Kothrade et al., US Patent 6,075,107.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. US Patent 4,846,994 (Kud) discloses a detergent composition containing synthetic fibres graft polymers by grafting a) polyalkylene oxides which have a molecular weight of from 300 to 100,000 and are based on ethylene oxide, propylene oxide and/or butylene oxide, with at least one vinyl ester derived from a saturated moncarboxylic acid containing 3 to 6 C atoms.

Kud does not disclose a graft copolymer having a number average molecular weight of at least 10,000 comprising cationically chargeable or charged side chains containing a tertiary or quaternary nitrogen atom.

By contrast, the graft copolymer presently claimed provides a soil release benefit from cotton. That is, it deposits on the cotton thereby making the cotton garment easier to clean in subsequent wash cycles. See the examples at pages 22 and 23 of the application.

Kud teaches that in order to be used as antiredeposition agent, claim 1 column 7 line 47, that is in order to stop soil which has already been released into the wash liquor from redepositing onto the fabric a polymer as defined by Kud will effect this antiredeposition process see column 5, line 25 to 30.

There is no teaching in Kud that such a polymer as defined in Kud would want to be deposited or even could be deposited on the fabric to provide soil release effects.

Likewise, US Patent 6,075,107 (Kothrade) is completely silent on the issue of soil release. Therefore, the teaching of Kud is not readily applicable to Kothrade as they are seeking to solve different problems. Kothrade is seeking to provide solubilisers/stabilisers for water insoluble active ingredients. Also the polymers in Kothrade are not grafts which could provide a soil release effect.

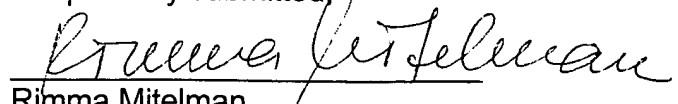
Thus, Kud, alone or in combination with Kothrade provides no pointer or incentive to the present invention. It is not seen how one of ordinary skill in the art, who has not had the benefit of hindsight afforded by the present disclosure, would have been led to combine Kud with Kothrade by picking a single teaching of cationic copolymers out of Kothrade. There are erratically different problems addressed by the two patents and the fact that Kothrade polymers are not even drafts and despite total absence of any teaching of soil release of any polymers in either Kud or Kothrade.

Thus, it does not appear that the Examiner has made out a *prima facie* case of obviousness. Even if the *prima facie* case were made out, applicants call the Examiner's attention to the evidence of unexpected results in applicants' specification, particularly at pages 22 – 23 of the specification.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn and the application be allowed to issue.

If a telephone conversation would be of assistance in advancing the prosecution of the present application, applicants' undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted


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